



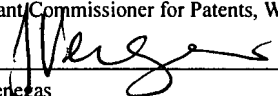
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PATENT  
Docket No. 435712000920  
Client Reference 025

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Tamara Venegas

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Christopher J. DANEK et al.

Serial No.: 09/296,040

Filing Date: April 21, 1999

For: MODIFICATION OF AIRWAYS BY  
APPLICATION OF ENERGY

Examiner: A. Farah

Group Art Unit: 3739

**RESPONSE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
JUN 18 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2001 (Paper No. 12) for which the shortened statutory time for response is June 14, 2001. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the remarks presented herein.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-54 (all pending claims) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiggs et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,972,026 to Laufer et al. (hereafter